

From: b.duncan
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/21/02 3:01pm
Subject: microsoft settlement

**6405 West 245 Avenue
Lowell, IN 46356-9719**

January 11, 2002

**Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001**

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I am writing to say out loud that this settlement should have occurred long ago and is in the best interests of the American public. Though, I do think many of the concessions Microsoft will be making are unfair to Microsoft and are not in the best interests of free market economy.

For one, forcing Microsoft to increase it relations with computer makers and software developers goes against the basic principles of a capitalist society in which we have the right to choose what we buy, what we do, what we produce, and who we team up with. The second thing is that to force Microsoft to disclose its interface technology to competitors is a violation of intellectual property rights. Microsoft worked long and hard to develop its products and services and it should not have to disclose its secrets to competitors that will then be able to hurt Microsoft.

Right now with an ongoing war on terrorism and many other issues that the government should be focused on, the last thing they should meddle with is free enterprise. I believe the nine states holding out grandstanding for their own political interests and should be punished themselves for their actions.

Sincerely,

Barbara Duncan

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